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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,402	08/25/2003	Yoshitaka Ito	42530-5400	3674
21611	7590	03/10/2006	EXAMINER	
SNELL & WILMER LLP 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626			SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3653	

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/647,402

**Applicant(s)**

ITO, YOSHITAKA

**Examiner**

Jeffrey A. Shapiro

**Art Unit**

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/25/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sagady (US 6,155,398) in view of Saltsov et al (US 6,371,473 B1). Regarding Claims 1, 4 and 18, Sagady discloses vending machine (1) that intakes tokens through token slot (50), dispenses tokens through token dispense opening (80), and intakes banknotes through banknote slot (60). The banknote validator (100), coin validator (110), display and payout unit are all connected to controller (130). See col. 3, lines 20-31. Regarding Claims 2 and 3, note figure 5 that illustrates the validator (100) and coin validator (110) as box-shaped structures.

Sagady does not expressly disclose, but Saltsov discloses a combination banknote validator and banknote dispenser, said validator/dispenser having modular components.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used the combination banknote validator and dispenser of Saltsov in place of Sagady's banknote validator.

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The suggestion/motivation would have been to increase reliability and serviceability by using modular design as well as to prevent banknote jamming. See Saltsov, col. 1, lines 29-60 and col. 9 line 51-col. 10, line 2.

3. Claims 6-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sagady (US 6,155,398) in view of Saltsov et al (US 6,371,473 B1) and further in view of Winstanley (US 5,400,891). Sagady discloses the system described above. Sagady does not expressly disclose, but Winstanley discloses a coin validator (2) having an opening on the rear portion thereof to allow for automatic resupply by an automatic resupply device. Note that Winstanley's cassette (14) allows resupply by its placement in an automatic resupply device. After resupply, said cassette can be replaced in the validator.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used a coin validator cassette in Sagady's coin validator, as taught by Winstanley.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide for flexibility in servicing a coin validator. See Winstanley, col. 2, lines 5-10.

Regarding Claim 6, note that Sagady's banknote dispensing unit and token dispensing unit are considered to be removable from an inside chassis as are Saltsov's combination unit.

Regarding Claims 7-11, it would have been obvious for Sagady's vending machine to have a first door with an appropriate lock and hinges, since the vending machine must be accessed during servicing while maintaining security at all other times.

Regarding Claims 12-17, note that it would have been obvious to provide a second or third door with appropriate locks and hinges so as to secure various portions of the vending machine internals as would be required by the security needs of the vending machine.


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Shapiro whose telephone number is (571)272-6943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene O. Crawford can be reached on (571)272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



GENE O. CRAWFORD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER



Jeffrey A. Shapiro  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3653

March 5, 2006